

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A method for incorporating and accessing semi-structured data within an LDAP environment, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) transforming the semi-structured data into LDAP data by using attributes to store information about individual semi-structured nodes, and by assigning a distinguished name to each of said data nodes to define a unique location in an LDAP hierarchy at an instance level;
 - b) converting a query, written in a semi-structured query language for operation on semi-structured data, into a LDAP query; and
 - c) accessing said LDAP data with said LDAP query.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said semi-structured data comprises XML data.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said query written in a semi-structured query language is an XPath query.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said XML data comprises WML data.
5. (cancelled)

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6. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein said semi-structured data is transformed to comprise a node, an element and an attribute.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said node, said element and said attribute each comprise ~~an~~ a first attribute, ~~an~~ a second attribute, and a name.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said element further comprises an order.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said attribute further comprises a first value.
10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said element further comprises a second value.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises the step of extending a scope to permit queries in an upward and downward direction.
12. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein step b) comprises the step of converting said semi-structured data query into a plurality of sub-queries.
13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said plurality of sub-queries are executed in parallel.

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14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said scope is one of restricted to a first node, restricted to a first level of nodes, restricted to all nodes below a base node under action of a filter expression, restricted to a parent node, restricted to sibling nodes, and restricted to all ancestors up to a root node.
15. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising executing at least one cache answerability algorithm at a level of said sub-queries.
16. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein said sub-queries comprise a main query and secondary queries.
17. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising restructuring said sub-queries into a second main query and at least one refinement query.
18. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising partial query evaluation of at least one of said sub-queries.
19. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising pre-processing of at least one of said sub-queries.
20. (currently amended) A device for incorporating and accessing semi-structured data within an LDAP environment, comprising:

means for transforming semi-structured data into LDAP data by using attributes to store information about individual semi-

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structured nodes, and by assigning a distinguished name to each of said data nodes to define a unique location in an LDAP hierarchy at an instance level;

means for converting a query, written in a semi-structured query language for operation on said semi-structured data, into an LDAP query; and

means for accessing said LDAP data with said LDAP query.

21. (original) A storage medium written with machine readable instructions for carrying out the method steps of claim 1.

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